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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/154,274	09/16/1998	ZOLTMAN G. TURI	BTG-5001	6727

7590 12/11/2001

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, WILLIAM W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3731

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/154,274	TURI, ZOLTMAN G.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William W Lewis	3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26,28-51,53-72,74-96 and 98-172 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 11-172 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 33-35,38-42,48,58-60,64,65,79,80,84-88,92,93,103-105,109 and 110 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 22-26, 28-32, 36, 37, ^{y3}42-47, 49-51, 53-57, 59, 61-63, 66-72, 74-78, 81-83, 89-91, 94-96, 98-102, 106-108, and 111-172 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Buirge et al. (US Patent 5,693,085).

The Buirge et al. reference discloses an assembly comprising an expandable member (10) that is a stent and a sleeve (12 or 13) consisting of collagen (see column 1, lines 19-24). The Buirge et al. reference also teaches the assembly can be inserted utilizing a balloon catheter (see column 2, lines 13-37).

Claims 22-26, 28-32, 36, 37, 43, 49-57, 61, 66-72, 74-78, 81-83, 89, 94-96, 98-102, 106, and 111-172 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Euteneuer (US Patent 5,681,345).

The Euteneuer reference discloses an assembly (10) comprising an expandable member (12, 14) that is a stent and a sleeve (16) consisting of collagen (see column 6 line 1). The Euteneuer reference teaches the assembly can be inserted utilizing a catheter assembly (see column 7, lines 42-50).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-21 are allowed.

⁶⁴
Claims 33-35, 38-42, 48, 58-60, 65, 79, 80, 84-88, 92, 93, 103-105, 109 and 110 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

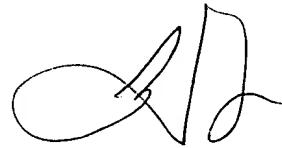
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims filed have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William W Lewis whose telephone number is (703) 308-0060. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30-11:30 and 1:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Recla can be reached on (703) 308-1382. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.



WL
December 7, 2001